

COMPADRES KIDS

BUILD A PADRES SAND CASTLE

Tools:

- A simple sand shovel
- Big plastic or metal shovel
- Drinking straw on a lanyard
- 1 gallon buckets
- 5 gallon buckets
- A melon baller
- An icing spatula
- A simple wooden-handled paintbrush



Step by Step Instructions:

1. Scout Out the Perfect Location

Ideally, build your sand castle in a place that has easy access to water, but is far enough away from any encroaching tide.

2. Build Your Foundation

Once you choose your location, build a large, flat base, so your castle will be stable and secure. Mix your sand with lots and lots of water for the best composition. Pour the water into the sand, stir until it's fully saturated, then let it drain and pat and mold the sand into the shape you want. Water is the key to successful sand castle building. Most sand castle experts recommend you use one part water to one part sand. Always keep your sand wet and allow it to drain before compressing and sculpting.

3. Build Your Towers

After you have your base, build your towers. Place a bottomless bucket upside down on one side of the sand mound. Fill it a quarter full with sand, then pour in half a bucket of water. Pack in more sand until the bucket is full. Remove bucket and repeat process on the other side of the mound. For the tower roof, pack sand tightly into the funnel, place funnel upside down on top of the bucket-shaped tower, then remove by wiggling gently from side to side. Repeat on second tower. Use your hands to gently smooth the tower and roof into one shape.

4. Finishing Touches

Finally, connect the towers with walls, doorways and arches. Once you have your basic structure, bring out your carving tools and start carving out the details for your castle.

Here are some carving basics:

- Start at the top so that any loose sand doesn't spoil carving you've already done.
- Use a paintbrush or straw to brush or blow away unwanted sand.
- Go slowly as you carve, since it's not that easy to replace the sand if you make a mistake.
- Carving allows you to create the design touches that'll really make your sand castle detailed and unique.

Smooth out the exterior of the castle and carve out brick designs or tunnels. Also add doors, windows and staircases. Carve an SD or Padres into the castle or decorate the walls with drawings. Add any decorations.

Have fun and enjoy your creation!